

REMARKS

After entry of the present amendments Claims 1-5, 9-19, 21, 23, 28-34, 43, and 48-58 will be pending. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of Claims 6-8, which were found to be allowable. Claim 9, also allowable, is rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 is rewritten in independent form incorporating the features of allowable Claim 20. Claims 6-8, 20, 35-42, and 44-47 are canceled herein. New Claims 50-58 are added, and each depends directly or indirectly from Claim 9 or Claim 10. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephonic interview. As discussed, Applicants have rewritten the method claims to incorporate allowable subject matter and canceled the product claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for finding the subject matter of Claims 6-9, 16, and 20 to be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendments, which are made to take the allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from Claims 6-8. Claim 9 is rewritten in independent format and Claim 10 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from Claim 20. Claims 50-58 are added, which depend from the allowed claims. These amendments were not offered before because Applicants disagreed with the rejections in the Office Action. Although Applicants continue to disagree, Applicants submit that these amendments place the application in better condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. Applicants submit that the Examiner's previous reasons for rejection are moot in view of the present amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 10-13, 17-19, 21, 28-34, 43, 48, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,117,460 to Kortschack (hereinafter "Kortschack") in view of GB 2367997 to Michiels et al. (hereinafter "Michiels"). The Examiner found Claims 6-

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9, 16, and 20 to be allowable if rewritten in independent format. The Examiner allowed Claim 23.

Without acquiescing in the rejection, Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of Claims 6-8, Claim 9 is rewritten in independent form, and Claim 10 is rewritten in independent form incorporating the features of Claim 20. Claims 50-58 are added, and each depends directly or indirectly from Claim 9 or Claim 10. Each of the previously rejected claims was amended to incorporate allowable features or now depends from a claim with allowable features. Therefore the Examiner's previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of the rejected scope in continuing applications and do not disclaim the cancelled subject matter.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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